



**VILLAGE  
of  
SOUTH JACKSONVILLE**

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July 20, 2021

South Jacksonville American Flag Project Approved by State of Illinois; Project Slated to Proceed Immediately; Land Will be Deeded from State to Village of South Jacksonville to be Used for American Flag Project. Location Will Also Include Time Capsule, War Memorial, and Dedicated Pedestrian Bike Trail.

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

At the request of Mayor Tyson Manker, the State of Illinois has agreed to permanently transfer an area of land near Interstate 72 to the Village of South Jacksonville, which will be turned into a pedestrian walking and biking trail culminating with a massive flagpole and American Flag that will serve as a permanent welcoming entrance to South Jacksonville.

IDOT District Engineer Sal Madonia called Mayor Manker earlier today with the good news, then sent the following email:

“As discussed with the Mayor this morning, we have consulted with Central Office (Headquarters) including our Chief Counsel’s Office and the Village may proceed with the flagpole installation as requested given that South Jacksonville has jurisdiction of this location.”

We will also initiate a transfer of land rights for the old frontage road which the Village has had jurisdiction since 1995/1996. While we initiate the land transfer, please be aware the progress may take some time. Installation of the flagpole is independent of the land transfer and can begin when needed.”

Mayor Tyson Manker, in response, said, “I am beyond thrilled that our American Flag Project has been approved and we will soon break ground to forever establish South Jacksonville as a place for patriotic Americans to live, raise a family and do business. Building the American Flag was central to my campaign, and I am excited to get the job done in nearly my first 100 days in office.”

“Over the next weeks, residents and passers-by will witness a transformation of the old frontage road at the entrance of the Village, from a dilapidated and overgrown forgotten roadway to a safe and vibrant pedestrian trail for residents and guests to walk, ride their bikes and exercise outdoors. The giant flagpole and American Flag we are going to build will greet everyone who enters or passes by the Village of South Jacksonville for the next 100 years. Today is a great day.”

“We will raise Old Glory for the first time in a ceremony at high noon on September 11, 2021, and reclaim our identity as proud Americans.”

The South Jacksonville American Flag and flagpole is funded with tourism funds collected by hotel taxes, is 100% American-made, and is being supplied by St. Louis supplier, American Heritage. Work is expected to begin on the project immediately.

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